THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) and (b) Most of the private airlines are making regular payments to Airports Authority of India (AAI) in respect of AAI services. However, the amount due from major private domestic airlines as on 30.06.2009 is: Go Airlines- Rs.1335.82 lakhs, Interglobe Aviation Ltd.- Rs.989.91 lakhs, Jet Airways- 3309.12 lakhs, Jet Lite (India) Ltd.- Rs.1418.42 lakhs, Kingfisher Airlines - Rs.14968.70 lakhs, Paramount Airways - Rs. 1300.76 lakhs and Spicejet Ltd.- Rs.1655.28 lakhs.

(c) Invoice for airport charges are raised on fortnightly basis against the airlines and 15 days credit is allowed to the private domestic airlines against security deposit equivalent approximate to 2 months billing.

Setting up of international airport at Kushinagar

2588. SHRI KALRAJ MISHRA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether with the proposal for setting up an international airport at Jewar having been dropped and the State Government of Uttar Pradesh has proposed another alternative site for an international airport in the State at Kushinagar;

(b) if so, whether Kushinagar, besides being a Buddhist destination, also holds other merits and attraction, for tourists; and

(c) if so, what is Government's reaction and decision thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) No, Sir. However, a proposal for setting up of new Greenfield airport at Kushinagar for international operations has been received.

(b) and (c) The proposal of the State Government of Uttar Pradesh to set up a new Greenfield airport at Kushinagar has been forwarded to the Airports Authority of India (AAI) and Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) for preliminary examination of the proposed site.

Status of Baljek Airport

2589. SHRI THOMAS SANGMA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) the present status of the Baljek airport at Tura;

(b) whether the entire work relating to runway, taxiway and apron have been completed;

(c) by when the airport will be fully operational; and

(d) whether the airport will be able to handle Boeing planes?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) to (c) Baljek (Tura) airport is an operational airport which is suitable for operation of 20 seater aircraft.

(d) No, Sir. However, there is a plan to upgrade this airport for 50 seater ATR-42 type of aircraft operation. For this, there is need to further extend the runway and provide other associated facilities once additional land is transferred by the State Government.